

FNRC Minutes

February 16, 2012

Members Present:

Ky Koitzsch, Gene Fialkoff, Stan Button, Liza Walker

Minutes: Minutes from the January 9th, 2012 meeting were discussed. Stan moved to approve the minutes and Gene seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Discussion:

Town Meeting Conservation Reserve Fund Presentation

1. Discussed talking points for Town Meeting Presentation are as follows:
 - a. The Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions may have some helpful info. Their contact email is avccvt@gmail.com
 - b. In 2005, 29 out of 83 Vermont CC had started Conservation Reserve Funds, therefore we are following in the foot steps of others.
 - c. The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife supports the protection of natural resources through the use of Conservation Reserve Funds to purchase land or conservation easements. From the VT Fish and Wildlife Website - http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/cwp_nonregulatory_tools.cfm "As noted above, one of the key powers of a conservation commission is the ability to recommend that the municipality acquire land and maintain a conservation fund to support land purchases. Vermont law specifically authorizes select boards to purchase land for conservation purposes. Accordingly, obtaining voter approval for the select board to spend town funds for land conservation and all the associated public interests is an excellent tool."
 - d. Examples of local projects that used local money to leverage conservation deals – Kingsbury Farm, Hartshorn Farm, Chase Brook Parcel, Phen Basin Block of Camel's Hump State Park.
 - e. History of Conservation in Waitsfield - 150K of local monies were used to leverage 800K of state and private donations for conservation projects in Waitsfield – talk to Liza for more specifics on these numbers.
 - f. By creating a Conservation Fund you create a vehicle for charitable gifts.
 - g. Using CF monies to cover the costs of conserving land will encourage Fayston land owners to do so.
 - h. Give examples of lost opportunities – Bragg Farm if it is developed?
 - i. Perhaps most important is that the creation of a CRF is consistent with the wishes of the Fayston residents who place a high value on the preservation of Fayston's natural resources. Chapter 3 in the Town Plan – Natural Resources (page 3-1) – describes this sentiment based on the 2006 survey. Goals and objectives of the same chapter (page 3-25) recommends specifically – **Establish a land acquisition/conservation fund** (Objective 3).
2. Other ways to gain support at Town Meeting –
 - a. Have a person in the audience who agrees to make a donation if the Article passes.
 - b. Liza will join us at Town Meeting in a supporting role to our presentation. Thanks Liza!

3. Action Items:

- a. Stan – Communicate with Valley Reporter about submitting an article (When Ned spoke with Lisa Loomis she also suggested writing a letter in the “ In my opinion” section) for the March 1st addition.
- b. Ky - Call Patti Lewis to get a copy of the Town Report – Get one to Liza
- Speak to Ann Day and Chad Borofsky about speaking in support of the CRF at Town Meeting. See if Chuck Farnsworth would consider coming to Town Meeting
- c. Stan, Gene, Cory, Ned – Create Town Meeting Presentation
- d. All – Continue to reach out to town folk for support.

Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 7 pm at the offices of Alces Post & Beam, 441 Mad River Park.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ky Koitzsch